

In the Claims

Please cancel claims 1-20.

Please add the following claims

- B1
21. A process for reducing evaporation of a minute droplet comprising the steps of:
providing a substrate;
providing a liquid layer; and
providing a minute droplet in contact with said substrate; said minute droplet
being substantially immiscible with said liquid layer,
wherein said liquid layer surrounds all surfaces of said minute droplet that are not
in contact with said substrate.
22. The process of claim 21 wherein said substrate has water repellency.
23. The process of claim 21 wherein said minute droplet is aqueous, and said liquid
layer is oily.
24. The process of claim 23 wherein said substrate has water repellency.
25. The process of claim 23 wherein said liquid layer is selected from a group
consisting of silicone oil, vacuum diffusion pump oil, mineral oil, paraffin oil, or
fluorinated oil.

Docket No. 10235/4
Application Serial No. 09/242,561

26. The process of claim 21 wherein said minute droplet is shot into said liquid layer to come into contact with said substrate. ~~D~~
27. The process of claim 23 wherein said minute droplet is shot into said liquid layer to come into contact with said substrate. ~~C~~
28. The process of claim 27 wherein said substrate has water repellency. ~~C~~
29. The process of claim 21 further comprising providing a covering over said liquid layer. ~~C~~
30. The process of claim 23 further comprising providing a covering over said liquid layer. ~~C~~
31. The process of claim 27 further comprising providing a covering over said liquid layer. ~~C~~
32. The process of claim 23 further comprising providing an aqueous solution into said liquid layer adjacent to said minute droplet wherein said aqueous solution does not contact said minute droplet.

33. A process for reducing evaporation of a minute droplet comprising the steps of:
- providing a substrate;
 - providing a liquid layer;
 - providing a minute droplet in contact with said substrate; said minute droplet being substantially immiscible with said liquid layer; and
 - providing a covering in contact with minute droplet, wherein said liquid layer surrounds all surfaces of said minute droplet that are not in contact with said substrate and said covering.

34. A process for conducting a reaction in a minute droplet protected from evaporation comprising the steps of:
- providing a substrate having a contact surface;
 - providing a liquid layer;
 - providing a minute droplet in contact with said substrate; said minute droplet being substantially immiscible with said liquid layer,
 - providing a covering to contact said liquid layer;
 - wherein said liquid layer surrounds all surfaces of said minute droplet that are not in contact with said substrate;
 - providing to said protected minute droplet a reactant; and conducting a reaction in said produced minute droplet with said reactant.

35. The process of claim 34 wherein said minute droplet is aqueous and said liquid layer is oily

36. The process of claim 35 wherein said aqueous minute droplet comprises DNA.

37. The process of claim 34 wherein the contact surface between said substrate and said minute droplet comprises an enzyme adsorption preventing agent.

38. The process of claim 34 wherein the contact between said substrate and said minute droplet comprises a bovine serum albumin coating.

39. The process of claim 34 wherein said liquid layer has a thickness of about 100 μm or less.

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of the subject application, as amended above, is respectfully requested in view of the comments below.

The specification has been amended to correct clerical errors. Claims 1-20 have been canceled. Claims 21-39 have been added. Support for these claims can be found in the specification and the originally filed claims. Claims 21-39 are pending in the subject application.